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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/50/L.61

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 1 and 2 of draft resolution A/50/L.61, the General Assembly would:

(a) Decide to adopt the amendment to article 43, paragraph 2, of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, replacing the word "ten" by the word "eighteen";

(b) Urge States parties to take the relevant steps to ratify this amendment in order to attain the majority of ratifications by States parties required for its entry into force.

B. Relationship of the requests to the approved programme of work

2. The requests contained in the above operative paragraphs of the draft resolution relate to subprogramme 1, Implementation of international instruments and procedures, of programme 35, Promotion and protection of human rights, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 1/ and to activities included under subprogramme 1, Implementation of international instruments and procedures, of section 21, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. 2/

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C. Activities by which the proposed request would be implemented

3. In accordance with article 50, paragraph 1, of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Conference of States Parties to the Convention, held in New York on 12 December 1995, adopted the amendment to article 43, paragraph 2, of the Convention as follows:

> "2. The Committee shall consist of eighteen experts of high moral standing and recognized competence in the field covered by this Convention. The members of the Committee shall be elected by States Parties from among their nationals and shall serve in their personal capacity, consideration being given to equitable geographic distribution, as well as to the principal legal systems."

4. It is recalled that in accordance with article 50, paragraphs 2 and 3, of the Convention:

> "2. An amendment adopted in accordance with paragraph 1 of the present article shall enter into force when it has been approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations and accepted by a two-thirds majority of States Parties.
>
> "3. When an amendment enters into force, it shall be binding on those States Parties which have accepted it, other States Parties still being bound by the provisions of the present Convention and any earlier amendments which they have accepted."

D. Additional requirements at full cost

5. The Committee on the Rights of the Child currently consists of 10 members and normally holds three annual sessions of three weeks' duration each at Geneva. A pre-sessional working group also meets at Geneva for one week approximately two to three months in advance of each session. Travel and subsistence expenses are paid in connection with the participation of all 10 members of the Committee, at the pre-sessional working groups and annual sessions. In addition, honorariums are payable to the 10 members of the Committee, at the rate of US$ 3,000 per annum for nine members and US$ 5,000 per annum for the Chairman of the Committee.

6. The requirements related to the enlargement of the membership of the Committee on the Rights of the Child from 10 to 18 members are estimated, on a full-cost basis, at $518,100 per biennium as follows:

	1996-1997 (United States dollars)
(a) Travel and per diem	470 100
(b) Honorariums	48 000
Total	518 100

E. Potential for absorption

7. Provisions for the expenses mentioned in paragraph 6 above have been made under section 21, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 amounting to US$ 617,800 for travel and subsistence and US$ 64,000 for honorariums, for a total provision of US$ 681,800 for the biennium, and it is not anticipated that the additional requirements of US$ 518,100 can be absorbed within the resources proposed for 1996-1997 under section 21. However, until the amendment is accepted by a two-thirds majority of States Parties and enters into force, the Committee on the Rights of the Child will continue to consist of 10 members in accordance with the provision of the Convention.

F. Summary of additional requirements

8. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/50/L.61, no additional provision would be sought under section 21 of the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 at this stage for the enlargement of the Committee. If the amendment is accepted by a two-thirds majority of States parties and enters into force in the course of the biennium, the Secretary-General would revert to this issue.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 and corrigendum (A/47/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1).

2/ Ibid., Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/50/6/Rev.1).